

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/036,851

Applicant(s)

BELAU ET AL.

Examiner

Lynda M Salvatore

Art Unit

1771

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12/17/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-9, 12-14, 16, 17, 22-24, 28-30, 32, 33, 38, 39 and 62-67.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 21 December 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's After Final amendment and accompanying remarks filed 12/17/04 have been fully considered and entered. Claims 1,15,21,31 and 42-61 have been canceled and claims 2,5,8,9,12-14,16,17,22-24,28-30,32,33,38 and 39 have been amended and claims 64-67 have been added as requested. Presently claims 2-9,12-14,16,17,22-24,28-30,32,33,38,39 and 62-67 are pending. Applicant's amendments are found sufficient to patently distinguish all pending claims over the prior art for reasons set forth herein below.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

As previously set forth in section 1 of the Final Office Action, claims 62 and 63 were indicated as allowable over the prior art made of record. Specifically, claims 62 and 63 were found allowable because the prior art made of record failed to teach or suggest a pattern unbonded non-woven having areas defining a first plurality of discrete unbonded areas and a second plurality of discrete unbonded areas; the first plurality of discrete unbonded areas having a first opacity level; and the second plurality of discrete unbonded areas having a second opacity level, the second opacity level being higher than the first opacity level. An updated art search did not produce any new substantial art for which to base a rejection and presently no motivation exists to combine references to form an obviousness type rejection. With regard to dependent claims 2-9,12-14,16,17,64 and 65, Applicant amended said claims such that they depend directly or indirectly from claims 62. With regard to claims 22-24,28-30,32,33,66, and 67, Applicant amended said claims such that depend directly or indirectly from claim 63. With regard to claims

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38 and 39 said claims include the allowable limitations set forth in claim 62. Thus, 2-9,12-14,16,17,22-24,28-30,32,33,38,39 and 62-67 are found allowable.

Conclusion

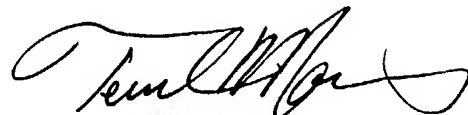
3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lynda M Salvatore whose telephone number is 571-272-1482. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Terrel Morris can be reached on 571-272-1482. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

January 7, 2005

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TERREL MORRIS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700